



MILWAUKEE NUMISMATIC NEWS

September 2021 – Our monthly MNS meeting for September will be held on Thursday, September 16, from 6 to 8 PM. The program for the meeting will be show & tell of numismatic acquisitions. Safety precautions are being followed. The 2021 annual MNS Coin Show will be held at the SHERATON BROOKFIELD on October 3, 9 AM-4 PM. Raffle tickets are available at the meeting and the show.

President: Justin Perrault
Secretary: James Kubley
Sgt. at Arms: Dave Herrewig
Trustee '17-'19: Dave Hunsicker
Librarian: Justin Perrault

Vice President: Jim Heinrich
Treasurer: Chris Kantak
Trustee '19-'21: Lee Hartz
Trustee '18-'20: Gary Bieringer
Newsletter editor: Leon Saryan

Mailing address: c/o PO Box 26886, Wauwatosa, WI 53226-0886

Newsletter material: c/o PO Box 210313, Milwaukee, WI 53221-8006 LASaryanphd@gmail.com

Web Site Address: www.milwaukeeenumismaticsociety.com

The Milwaukee Numismatic Society, founded in 1934, is the oldest and largest organization in Milwaukee devoted to the study of money. Meetings in 2021 will be held at 6 PM in the Mayfair Mall community room on the third Thursday of each month.

September Coin of the Month: This month we have a 1992 silver proof set, in a mint package. The dime, quarter, and half are struck in silver. The set catalogs at \$28, bidding starts at \$25.



August 2021 MNS President's Message

The ANA World's Fair of Money was a resounding success, and I hope that everyone who wanted to attend was able to. From the looks of show and tell at our last club meeting it appears that many of the members had a successful visit to the show. This being the biggest and best coin show to have occurred over the past two years, hopefully it will assuage everyone's hankering for in-person numismatic events. A number of smaller coin shows are still scheduled through the fall, MNS's included, but the next large (relatively) local ones won't take place until CSNS (in April 2022) and ANA again next summer.

Speaking of our coin show, we are moving full steam ahead on having this year's and many future year's shows held at the Brookfield Sheraton and Convention Center. In order to take advantage of the off-season rental rate, starting in 2022 our show date will be moved to the 2nd weekend in November. This should give us prominent billing to close out the year on a high note, and it will not conflict with any other events of importance in the area.

It was decided at the last meeting to forego a club banquet again this year. There just didn't seem to be enough interest in holding it, not to mention the Club must pay Alioto's for a minimum of 25 attendees whether or not they attend. We will instead use our December pizza party as a stand in for our banquet, where exhibitor awards will be distributed. If anyone is interested in giving a presentation at the December meeting please let me know, otherwise we will just use it for socializing and general show and tell.

We will also be holding officer elections this year, since all positions were grandfathered in for an additional term after last year's hiatus. If anyone is interested in running for any positions on the Board please let Gary B. know.

Happy Collecting,
Justin J. Perrault
masters1122@yahoo.com
262.613.9996

Editor's Corner

Last month we printed the first two pages of an interesting article about the Carson City mint, one of the historic mints of the United States. For those who were wondering what happened to the remainder of the article, it is continued and concluded on pages 7 and 8 of this issue. Short articles from our readers are always of interest, and we will print as many as space permits. Letters to the editor are also welcome.--LAS

MN\$ 2021

Schedule

Monthly meetings for 2021 are ready to commence. Due to changes at Mayfair Mall, our meetings will run from 6:00-8:00 PM on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Community Meeting Room in the lower level of Mayfair Mall. Visitors interested in numismatics are welcome.

Monthly meeting programs

| | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Jan 21: | General Business/Show & Tell |
| Feb 18: | General Business/Show & Tell |
| March 18: | General Business/Show & Tell |
| April 15: | General Business/Show & Tell |
| May 20: | Spring Auction |
| June 17: | Show & Tell-Non Numismatic |
| July 15: | New Show Venue |
| | Announcement/Show & Tell |
| Aug 19: | Open/ANA Show Recap |
| Sept 16: | Open |
| Oct 21: | Raffle Tickets Drawing |
| Nov 18: | Autumn Auction |
| Dec 16: | Christmas Party/Office Elections |

Annual Dues

Dues for 2022 are \$10. Please pay Treasurer Chris K. at the next meeting, or they can be mailed to **MNS, PO Box 26886, Wauwatosa, WI 53226-0886**. Thanks to those who have paid. Those who have not paid will be removed from the club's mailing list.

Random Information

MNS is a volunteer organization. We always need new and interesting programs, activities, and helpers to work at events. MNS will also reimburse refreshment expenses up to \$60. To volunteer, please contact Pres. Justin Perrault at 262.613.9996 or VP Jim Heinrich at 262.796.1814. Thanks to everyone who has stepped up by volunteering their time and talent to make the club a success.

2021 Numismatic Events

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Sept. 19: | Sheboygan Coin Club Show 2519 S. Business Dr. Lakeshore Lanes (9-3 PM) |
| Sept. 26 | Green Bay Nicolet CC Fall Show Stadium View Bar & Grill 1963 Holmgren Way (9-3 PM) |
| Oct. 3: | MNS Coin Show (at SHERATON BROOKFIELD) (9-4 PM) 375 S. Moorland Rd. |
| Oct. 24: | Elgin Coin Club Show Holiday Inn at 495 Airport Rd. Elgin, IL (8-3 PM) |
| Oct. 31 | Madison CCC Fall Show Madison Marriott West (9-4 PM) 1313 John Q. Hammons Dr. |
| Apr. 22-23, '22: | SSCC Coin Show, Four Points Sheraton Airport |
| Apr. 23, 2022 | 40 th Annual MNS Scout Clinic at Four Points Sheraton Airport |
| Aug. 16-20, '22: | ANA World's Fair of Money Rosemont, IL |

Refreshment Schedule

| | |
|----------|-----------------|
| May 20: | Justin P. |
| June 17: | Justin P. |
| July 15: | Gary B. |
| Aug 19: | Open |
| Sept 16: | Open |
| Oct 21: | Open |
| Nov 18: | Open |
| Dec 16: | Christmas Party |

MNS OCTOBER 3, 2021 COIN SHOW

NEW LOCATION: The Club will be holding our October 3, 2021 coin show at the Sheraton Brookfield (375 S. Moorland Rd). This is a change from previous years. It is located just off I-94 south of Brookfield Square Mall.

Milwaukee Numismatic Society

Minutes
August 19, 2021

President Justin Perreault called the 1018th meeting of the MNS to order at 6:04pm. There were 21 members & 0 guests in attendance. The president led the club in the pledge of allegiance. Door prizes were won by Don K, Tom K, James K, Norm V, Tom R, and Jim H.

Coin of the Month: Steve J. won the coins of the month, 1986 – S Liberty 2 Coin Set, with a winning bid of \$41.00

Minutes: The minutes for July 2021 were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Chris K. reported that July showed net receipts of \$0.00 plus a transfer from the Club's Vanguard account and \$293.93 in net disbursements for a positive net cash flow of \$206.96.

Correspondence: The Numismatist and Coins Magazine

VP: There are a few months available to bring refreshments.

Newsletter: Leon S. is always looking for interesting articles to include in the newsletter. 1 or 2 page articles are ideal.

Milwaukee Numismatic Coin Show: The 2021 MNS coin show will be on October 3, 2021, at the Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel: Brookfield Ballroom from 9:00am until 4:00pm with a \$2 admission and 75+ dealer tables. The address is 375 S. Moorland Road / Brookfield, WI / 53005. Please help the club spread the news and that it is a new location. Please help the Club by signing up to volunteer and see John B for raffle tickets.

2021 MNS Banquet: The banquet for 2021 has been canceled. We look forward to being able to have it next year.

Show & Tell Non-Numismatic: Justin P – ANA/Cincy Buys, Leon S – 5 Roman Egypt copper drachms & Milwaukee Police challenge coin, Jeff G – Hong Kong Notes, Tom S – The Eid Mar denarius, the top ancient coin, Bruce B – My Largest and Smallest Ancient Coins (Greek ¼ obol and Roman Heavy Bronze Semis), Jordan – Piece of the Berlin Wall with Cold War Coins and Irish Coins from ANA, James K – ANA Finds, and Tom C – Elongateds and Blood Chit

The meeting was informally adjourned at 7:53 pm by President Perrault.

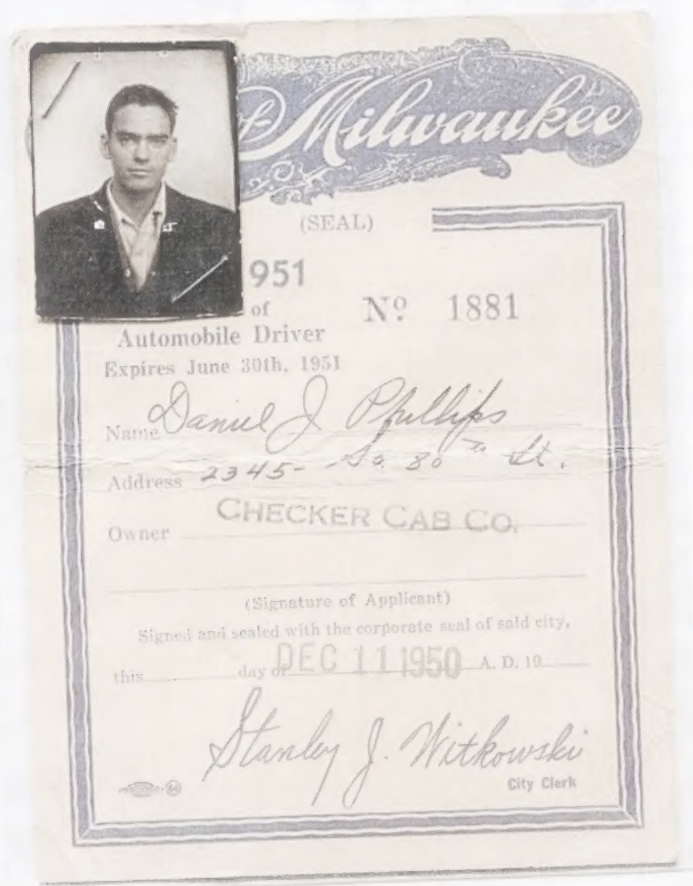
Respectfully submitted by James Kubley

Milwaukee Taxi Driver License Badges

By Fred Borgmann

Most states licensed taxi drivers and issued license badges in the past. A few states like Wisconsin failed to take advantage of this taxation opportunity and left it up to cities, such as Milwaukee. Milwaukee began licensing taxi drivers in 1913. The license came in the form of an undated "Licensed Automobile Driver" badge. The undated badges were issued from 1913 to 1923 and are surprisingly rare considering their high 3 digit numbers. The 1924 badges were the first dated versions. Instead of having just the year, the badges are dated as "Expires May 1, 1924" to reflect the city's "fiscal year" rather than a calendar year. The expiration date was changed to April 30, in 1928 and to June 30, in 1932 and remained unchanged until the last date, 1980, when the expiration date was set at October 30th.

The badges are nickel plated bronze and changed shapes every year. This continued until 1943 when, due to war time shortages, the alloy was changed from the nickel plated bronze to zinc, similar to the 1943 Lincoln cent coins. In 1960 the license title was changed to "Licensed Taxicab Driver" and remained as such until 1980; the last year that badges were issued. For most of those years the badges were brass with soft enamel colored highlighting. Sometime by 1950 paper licenses with attached photos were issued along with the badges. By now I would expect that the licenses are modern plastic identification cards.



A 1950-1951 Taxi Driver Certificate



A selection of Milwaukee Taxi Driver badges

* * * * *

RIP Leon H. Adraktas

Long-time collector and MNS member Leon H. Adraktas passed away peacefully on August 18 at the age of 84. He is survived by his wife Joyce and several relatives. He attended West Division High School. He was an avid health club enthusiast, and was an active and enthusiastic participant in several local coin clubs including the Milwaukee Numismatic Society. We are saddened that he is no longer with us. The MNS extends its sympathies to his family and friends.

RIP Joel Edler

Joel Edler, who worked for 22 years (1984-2006) on the staff of Krause Publications in Iola, passed away on July 27. He was born in Freeport, Illinois, in 1941 and is survived by his wife, nine children, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A collector since childhood, he turned his hobby into a profession. At KP, he was co-author of the *U.S. Coin Digest* and the *Standard Catalog of United States Paper Money*. He also served several terms as Village President of Iola, Wisconsin. MNS member Cliff Mishler wrote a nice remembrance of Joel in the August 24 issue of *Numismatic News*. Our condolences to his family and friends.



1872-CC half dollar

(Images courtesy Stack's/Bowers)

these weights were not changed, but silver coins did get a small increase in weight. Coins struck after March 31 thus had arrows at the date, so that the two issues of coin could be distinguished by the average person.

Silver coins struck in the first three months at Carson did not have arrows. The dime and quarter dollars without arrows are great rarities (the dime is unique) while the quarter dollar is very rare; these rarities came about because most of the silver coinage from the first quarter was melted in April 1873. Only the half dollar can be obtained by the average collector and even then it will cost about \$900 in VF-20 condition. The With Arrows pieces of 1873 are much easier to obtain.

Henry Rice resigned as superintendent in May 1873 and was replaced by Frank Hetrick. The latter lasted barely a year as he was in constant hot water with seemingly endless charges being made against him. Actually, he was a very competent official (when sober) but had the bad luck to be a compulsive gambler and an even worse drunk. He went 'on the wagon' several times but always managed to fall off. He was replaced in July 1874 by Levi Dague.

Carson City was subject to a barrage of criticism in the early years for its low coinage totals. The complaints were unfair, however, as depositors determined whether they wanted ingots (bars) or coins for their bullion. Unfortunately for the Carson City Mint, most chose unparted bars with the percentages of silver and gold stamped on them. In the two fiscal years of 1871 and 1872 (July 1, 1870 to June 30, 1872) the Mint received deposits worth 10.8 million dollars, but only \$900,000 in coinage was struck. Some years were worse than this.

The mint law of 1873 actually helped to create a demand for coinage. One section of the new law mandated a silver Trade Dollar, which was meant for export to the Orient, especially China. Several million pieces of this new denomination were coined at Carson, but this mint was well behind San Francisco. Outside of the Trade dollar, however, there was little demand in this region for minor silver coins.

In 1875, Carson joined the Philadelphia and San Francisco mints in coining another new denomination, the twenty-cent piece, the Susan B. Anthony dollar of its day. There were about 130,000 pieces struck in 1875 but the 10,000 coined at Carson City in 1876 were mostly melted, though a handful still exist. Even the 1875-CC brings good prices due to the overall demand for Carson City coins.

There were heavy mintages of minor silver coins at Carson City during the 1870s, but these were not meant for area use. Instead these were mostly shipped to the east coast where the Treasury used them to replace the Fractional paper currency.

During the 1870s Californians who did not like the Nevada mint spread rumors about the poor quality of their coinage.



1873-CC half dollar arrows

(Images courtesy Stack's/Bowers)

Finally, these stories became so persistent that the Bureau of the Mint assigned Martin V. Davis to conduct an on-site investigation. Davis found that none of the horror stories was true and that the quality of Carson coins was fully equal to those of the other two mints. One of the pieces submitted in evidence against Carson City was found by Davis to have gone through a fire after leaving the Mint!



1873-CC Trade dollar

(Images courtesy of Heritage Auctions www.ha.com)



1878-CC silver dollar

(Images courtesy of Heritage Auctions www.ha.com)

During the 1870s numerous attempts were made to abolish the Carson Mint. The costs were too high for the limited amount of coinage it produced. Moreover, the bullion could have been shipped to San Francisco or Denver, the site of an assay office established a few years earlier, at a great deal less cost than maintaining a mint. By late in 1877 the end was in sight, but the Mint was saved by a law passed in early 1878.



1891-CC half eagle

(Images courtesy of Heritage Auctions www.ha.com)

The Bland-Allison Act of February 1878 was designed to stop the downward spiral of silver prices in this country. The government was required to buy large amounts of silver each month and coin a certain amount in silver dollars, whether they were wanted by the public or not. As a matter of fact, they were not, but still the coins were struck and found their way, for the most part, to government vaults.

Despite the Morgan dollar coinage, the Carson City Mint was suspended in November 1879 and did not reopen until September 1880. The latter date, of course, accounts for the relative scarcity of 1880 Carson City coins, both in silver and gold. The Mint at Carson City did not strike minor silver coins after 1878, only silver dollars and gold coins.

In 1881 there was another suspension, from April to October, again the reason for the scarcity of this date. The Bureau of the Mint in Washington had discovered that it could very well do without the help of Carson City, despite the number of silver dollars that had to be coined. (In 1879, the New Orleans Mint had been reopened which meant that there was even less reason to keep the Carson branch in operation.)

Under Superintendent James Crawford, the Carson City Mint managed to stay open from October 1881 through March 1885, when Crawford died. After his death, however, the replacement superintendent (William Garrard) attempted a wholesale dumping of 'disloyal' employees; in other words, they belonged to the wrong political party. When one long-time employee would not resign, he was fired for refusing to obey an order!

The disruption caused by Garrard's political firings had an unintended consequence: the Mint was again closed in



1893-CC silver dollar

(Images courtesy of Stack's/Bowers)

November 1885 and did not reopen until September 1889. From 1889 mintage operations went rather smoothly though output was not all that large, especially for the gold coins.

In the early 1890s there was a major theft at the Mint. About \$75,000 worth of bullion was stolen but only about one-third recovered. Several people went to jail for this crime.

After March 1893 there was a shift in government thinking about silver. By the end of the year the Treasury would no longer be obligated to buy vast quantities of the pale metal for coining into dollars. It was a major defeat for the silver interests but a disaster for the Carson City Mint, which was ordered closed to coinage in June 1893. From then until June 1933 the institution operated as an assay office for the convenience of area miners. After 1933 there was nothing; it was the end of an era.

Those readers wishing to learn more about the workings and history of the Carson City Mint are advised that the several books about this mint by Rusty Goe are well worth obtaining and a 'gold mine' of information.